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DEPARTMENT FOR D NELSON, R KASTENBERG, AND K LARSEN

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SUBJECT: CAPE VERDE CONSULTS BEFORE JOINING COPENHAGEN ACCORD

REF: STATE 132367

1.(U) Per reftel demarche, the DCM stressed that the Copenhagen Accord is an important step forward to combat climate change and urged Cape Verde to support the United States and the international community by associating before the January 31 deadline. MFA Environmental Affairs Advisor Tania Romulado, explained that Cape Verde would likely miss the deadline because it is active in several climate change groups, including the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS), and must ensure that associating with the Copenhagen Accord would not undermine the GOCV's existing commitments. She admitted that Cape Verde viewed the Accord as disappointing, but agreed that the negotiated document was better than nothing and offered some attractive new components to the international community including funding and transparency safeguards.

12. (U) Per Romulado, AOSIS established more ambitious goals on preventing or mitigating climate change in its September 2009 declaration than the Copenhagen Accord seeks. She predicted that the GOCV would be able to decide whether to associate with Copenhagen after the February 3 AOSIS meeting in New York. At that meeting, members will discuss how the Copenhagen's goals will protect island states in particular from climate change.

13. (SBU) Comment: The GOCV appears to be holding back out of respect for the newly-established AOSIS group rather than any particular reservations about Copenhagen itself. Therefore, we believe that Cape Verde will associate within a few days of the AOSIS meeting. MFA contacts have already noted that Cape Verde hopes to benefit from the global funding for adaptation and mitigation established for associated nations and inquired about application procedures. End comment.

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